IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-55 (Canceled).

56. (Original) In a network device having a redundancy platform including an active controller system and a standby controller system, a method comprising:

receiving a routing protocol state change from a peer node by the active controller system;

sending the routing protocol state change to the standby controller system;

receiving a commitment to the routing protocol state change by the active controller system from the standby controller system;

committing to the routing protocol state change in the active controller system; and

sending the commitment to the peer node by the active controller system.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

sending the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the commitment from the standby controller system.

58. (Original) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

sending the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the routing protocol state change from the peer node.

59. (Previously Presented) A network device comprising:

a standby controller; and

an active controller to receive a routing protocol state change from a peer node, to send the routing protocol state change to the standby controller, to receive a commitment to the routing protocol state change from the standby controller system, to commit to the routing protocol state after receiving the commitment from the standby controller, and to send the commitment to the peer node.

60. (Original) The network device of claim 59, wherein the active controller is to send the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the commitment from the standby controller.

61. (Original) The network device of claim 59, wherein the active controller is to send the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the routing protocol state change from the peer node.

62. (Original) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

receiving a routing protocol state change from a peer node by an active controller system;

sending the routing protocol state change to a standby controller system;

receiving a commitment to the routing protocol state change by the active controller system from the standby controller system;

committing to the routing protocol state change in the active controller system; and

sending the commitment to the peer node by the active controller system.

63. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 62, that further provides instructions, which if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

sending the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the commitment from the standby controller system.

64. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 62, that further provides instructions, which if executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

sending the routing protocol state change to a routing protocol after receiving the routing protocol state change from the peer node.

Please add the following new claims 65-76, as follows:

65. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the routing protocol state change

includes a Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) state change, a Routing Internet Protocol (RIP) state change, an Open Shortest Path First Protocol (OSPF) state change, or an Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System Protocol (IS-IS) state change.

66. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

receiving or generating a routing protocol message by the active controller system; and

selectively replicating the received or generated routing protocol message in the standby controller system.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the routing protocol message includes a BGP message, a RIP message, an OSPF message, or an IS-IS message.

68. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

detecting a failure in the active controller system; and

maintaining the same routing protocol state changes in the active controller system prior to failure in the standby controller system.

69. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

performing Internet Protocol (IP) layer 3 service or a Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) service.

70. (New) The network device of claim 59, wherein the routing protocol state change includes a Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) state change, a Routing Internet Protocol (RIP) state change, an Open Shortest Path First Protocol (OSPF) state change, or an Intermediate System-to-Intermediate System Protocol (IS-IS) state change.

71. (New) The network device of claim 59, wherein the active controller system is to receive or generate a routing protocol message and to replicate selectively the received or generated routing protocol message to the standby controller system.

72. (New) The network device of claim 71, wherein the routing protocol message includes a BGP message, a RIP message, an OSPF message, or an IS-IS message.

73. (New) The network device of claim 59, wherein the active controller system is to detect a failure and the standby controller system is to maintain the same routing protocol state changes in the active controller system prior to the failure.

74. (New) The network device of claim 59, wherein the active controller system or standby controller system is to perform an Internet Protocol (IP) layer 3 service or a Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) service.

75. (New) The network device of claim 59, wherein the network device includes a network router, switch, optical switch, bridge, hub, or gateway.

76. (New) A system having a redundancy platform including an active controller system and a standby controller system, the system comprising:

first receiving means for receiving a routing protocol state change from a peer node by the active controller system;

first sending means for sending the routing protocol state change to the standby controller system;

second receiving means for receiving a commitment to the routing protocol state change by the active controller system from the standby controller system;

committing means for committing to the routing protocol state change in the active controller system; and

second sending means for sending the commitment to the peer node by the active controller system.